

Message

From: Corbett, Kate (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=KATE.CORBETT]
Sent: 8/21/2012 5:50:50 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MassMail-01/cn=Recipients/cn=Charles.Salemi]
CC: Corbett, Kate (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MassMail-01/cn=Recipients/cn=Kate.Corbett]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi Chuck,

I received [REDACTED] to be re-tested from Boston. The original testing was done by ASD (who was the primary) and confirmed by me on 3/7/11. The results were reported as cocaine. 2 pbs were received and 1 was analyzed. On 8/16/12, I opened the pb that was originally analyzed. I weighed it (by difference), then did spot tests. I could not get any spots, even with the addition of acid. I tried the cobalt test 3x and got the same result. I also tried to get crystals and was unable to get those too. I then alerted you to the problem and you had said to run the sample on the GC/MS. I prepared a vial and ran it on the screen method. I had added to the end of a run that was already going. I did not realize it when I originally showed you the GC/MS but I had forgotten to change the vial # so the machine picked up the cocaine std and not the vial I had prepared. I did not catch my mistake until 8/21/12. On 8/17/12, you and I both tried to get crystals using the sample that had been run on the GC/MS and could not get any. On 8/20/12, I reopened the sample in front of both you and Kenny, and we did spot tests (which did not give us a + cobalt) and I prepared another vial to be run on the GC/MS. I re-ran the original vial I had prepared [REDACTED] and the new vial [REDACTED] on the drugs method with a cocaine std. The GC/MS was negative for both. That was when I went back and looked at what I had run on the screen method originally. I pulled the batch sheet and noticed that I had not changed the vial # and that is why we had gotten a + cocaine peak.

Let me know what we should do next.

Kate Corbett
Chemist II
Drug Analysis Lab
305 South St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
phone (617) 983-6632
fax (617) 983-6625